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10 March 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Zanzibar: Pro-Communist elements led by Foreign Minister Babu are continuing to expand their influence and controls in the Zanzibar regime.

The three-week absence from the island of "Field Marshal" Okello, most of whose thugs have been disarmed by Babu's followers, opened the way for Communist sympathizers to concentrate their pressures on President Karume. Okello is unpredictable

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but his activities before he left Zanzibar seem to have been as much a threat to Babu as to the milder Karume. Okello attempted to return to the island yesterday.

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Babu is consolidating his position and building up his own paramilitary force. US observers believe that his force may already be more effective than the two police forces in Zanzibar, and that Karume does not understand the nature of the threat Babu poses. The US chargé likens the Karume-Babu relationship to that of a bird paralyzed by a snake.

Pro-Communists appear to be systematically challenging Karume's authority in other ways as well. On two recent occasions, militants from Babu's party have appeared at certain buildings and summarily announced the "nationalization" of the premises.

Karume countermanded these actions, but on 8 March he announced the nationalization of all land in Zanzibar. This step would be popular with the African majority, since much of the land consists of Arab-owned clove plantations.

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DAILY BRIEF

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After his trip to the island, Sandys told US officials that he had been more favorably impressed by Babu than he had expected to be. Sandys indicated he was not certain about the extent of communism in the regime.

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DAILY BRIEF

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Cuba: Havana continues to develop a legal case against the Guantanamo Base agreement in the expectation of presenting it some day before an international forum.

A Havana radiobroadcast on 8 March asserted that the agreement acknowledges ultimate Cuban sovereignty over the base area and that, as a consequence, Cuba has the right to "regulate" the contract in accordance with its national laws. The broadcast also contended that there can be no such thing as a "perpetual lease," since a lease, by definition, is a temporary agreement.

Another point made by the broadcast was that the agreement is "null and void" because the US has "altered" its original purpose. It cited that purpose as being a "desire to strengthen the ties of friendship between the two peoples," and accused the US of turning the base into an "instrument to threaten the national sovereignty of Cuba."

During the February fishing boat - Guantanamo Base incident, Castro stated that Cuba did not plan to recover the base by force, but by referring the issue to "an appropriate international organ" at an appropriate time. The 8 March broadcast singled out the International Court of Justice as the one that Havana presently has in mind.

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